

(e) Even after the removal of QRs protection to the industries is available in the form of raising custom duties upto the bound levels, imposing anti-dumping duties and taking safeguards measures in case of surge in imports. The Government have put in place several measures to help Small Scale Industries (SSIs) become globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalization. A comprehensive policy package for the development of SSIs has been announced on 30th August, 2000. The policy package will enhance the competitiveness of SSIs through easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

SSI units in Andhra Pradesh

4551. SHRMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of SSI units in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) how many of them have been declared sick;
- (c) how many workers and employees are engaged in these industries; and
- (d) the measures taken by Government to revive the sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCLAE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) As per the information received from Government of Andhra Pradesh, the number of registered SSI units in Andhra Pradesh upto 31.12.2000 was 1,38,209.

(b) and (c) According to the Reserve Bank of India, which maintains information on sick SSI units, the number of sick SSI units in Andhra Pradesh as on 31st March, 2000 was 12,461. Data on workers and employees in sick SSI units are not maintained centrally.

(d) The Government is seized with the problem of sickness in SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries, which *inter-alia*, include institutional mechanism in the form of State Level Inter-Institutional Committee (SLIIC), special rehabilitation cells in Banks and State Financial Institutions and elaborate guidelines issued by RBI for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. Further, with a view to strengthen the SSI sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally, the Government has announced a comprehensive policy package on 30.8.2000 which consists of, *inter-alia*, enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructural and marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has also been assisting the sick units through fiscal concessions and has been extending relief and concessions to them by waiving penal interest, rescheduling of principals and funding the interest on loans given by the State Financial Corporation and Banks, as per RBI guidelines.

Sick SSI units

†4552. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have formulated any plan to identify sick Small Scale units;
- (b) the number of Small Scale units which were in the sick category in the last financial year;
- (c) the amount of investment made in these units; and
- (d) the number of units out of the above which can be rejuvenated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES

[†]Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.